



There are numerous areas in western Kansas which resemble the area south of Russell Springs, where the fossils were found. Harper had permission from the landowner to search the area for fossils. Judy Harper climbed up the rock hills where she found a single veterbrae Sunday. Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Searching High Plains for ancient sea creatures enjoyable pastime

FOSSILS, from Page 1

of several layers of small oysters which had built up on top of the original shell.

Armed with that information, we began looking for the shells, and found numerous examples of both the congesta, and another type of ancient clam shell which was thin and resembled a plate. On top of one of the mounds, Harper pointed out two of these which were nearly two feet across, but were in such a deteriorated condition it would have taken hours to dig them

While walking across an open area, we spotted a piece which looked much different than anything around. Har-

gator-like creature that was numerous years ago.

Excited by the find, we looked around, but there was no evidence of any others which would match.

Moving further south across the bottom, we picked up a small piece which looked like a tooth. Harper agreed and said it was a shark tooth of the corax variety of shark.

A bit later around another bend, we found a single piece of vertebrae which of unknown type.

Using a small pick tool, we dug out found over 100 shark teeth.

per identified it as part of a paddle several larger pieces of the sea clam bone of a mosasaur. This was an alli- shells, and found numerous pieces of these shells, including a piece of hinge in the interior sea about 80 million and several different thicknesses of the shell.

> Larry Harper found several small pieces of fish bones, and one where there was nearly a complete skeleton of a small fish.

Judy Harper found a vertebrae and some other small fossils.

While looking around, the landowner came over a rise on horseback. He was out checking his cattle, and stopped to visit. He said he and his fam-Harper said was from an ancient fish ily had spent quite a bit of time hunting through the area, and that one had

With the sun reaching toward noon, we decided we had searched enough at that location, and after a long drink of cool water and a sandwich, we moved onto another location along the same canyon

We found more samples of sea shells, but nothing big.

On the way back, we stopped by the Fort Wallace Museum and looked at their collection of fossils which have been found in the area. The collection has many examples of larger dinosaurs

Returning home, we collected all the pieces we had picked up and began try cleaning some up, and finding what we had found.

Larry Harper found an example the mosasaur the bone on a site on Internet. It was from the paddle o Tylosaurus proriger, which is a ve large mosasaur about 30 feet lon There is one now on display at t University of Kansas which was fou in western Kansas. Another large e ample was found in 1996 in an an called Horsethief Canyon, south Ouinter.

We found one of the same si Harper had looked at, which also ga additional information on the sha tooth and the sea shells.

The pieces of shell which looked li part of a plate were from a variety of sea shell called platyceramus platinus, from Canada to Mexico.

Having been bitten by the fossil bug, I have little doubt the ranks of amateur Should another opportunity present itself, I'll be ready to bounce across another pasture and walk stooped over, looking for that piece of bone protruding from the shale which might be the more than one tantalizing piece of the ancient puzzle.

The Internet site where there is a sofkansas.com.

	VOTE
Vee	Janet R. Rumpel
	Sherman County Clerk
1	(Republican)
Experience &	
Knowledge	21 yrs. of experience & commitment
Equals	to
Savings to	Sherman County
Taxpayers	(Political Ad paid for by Janet Rumpel, Treasurer)
	Knowledge Equals Savings to

We can't do enough for special ed

MORRISON, from Page 1

legislative duties.

As a legislator, Morrison said he has served on the Education Committee every term, adding that "when it comes to special education, I don't think we can do enough - government or otherwise.

"I am a liberal almost when it comes to special education."

nan of the Health and Human Services

cast engineer, and once worked as chief with.

engineer for KXXX/KQLS Radio in Colby. He said he designed the television and radio stations at Colby Community College. Calling it his "hobby," Morrison said he has assisted engineers at radio stations across the state. to get responses out of his constituents.

as a businessman. Morrison said he had several restau-stituents, just to make people mad. Morrison has also been vice-chair- rants built in Colby, including Sirloin Stockade, Long John Silver's and Little people involved is to make them an-Committee, chairman of the Select Caesar's Pizza. He no longer runs the gry," he said. businesses, he said, because the Legislature takes up all of his free time.

Morrison said he is a certified broad- compromises that both sides can live

"I honestly try to listen and be fair," he said, "that's what compromise is all about.

Of course, he said, he's not always the good guy. He said he'll do anything In his hometown, people know him He'll play devil's advocate by taking a stand that's opposite that of his con-

"Sometimes the only way to get

as well as smaller fish.

which grew up to four feet in diameter. These were thinner shells which served as protective places for small schools hunters has been increased by one. of fish to hide, and there are some examples of the fish being fossilized inside on display at the Sternberg Museum in Hays.

The shark tooth was of the squalicorax species which were numerous in tip of a larger sea animal, and might be the interior sea, since the sharks lost teeth throughout their life.

These all are examples of the cretaceous period of history, and can be wealth of information is www.oceanfound throughout the High Plains,

Committee on Information Management and chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee on Information Technology. He has served on other committees, including information technology, health care stabilization fund oversight and radio communication.

Morrison describes himself as a 'people person," and said his experience in many fields allows him to talk to and understand most people.

"I can talk with anyone about darn near anything," he said.

Wallace fair this week

The Wallace County Free Fair will be held Thursday through Sunday at the fairgrounds in Sharon Springs.

For Thursday, judging begins at 9:30 a.m. in the quonset and community activity building. Then at 12:30 p.m., the 4-H open class food sale will be held in the community building. The livestock judging contest begins at 1 p.m. and the sheep lead will start at 5 p.m.

Friday's activities will include garden judging at 9 a.m. in the beef quonset. Stock dog trials will be held at 10 a.m. in the roping arena. Flower judging will also begin at 10 a.m. Then from 1 to 5 p.m. there will be free swimming at the Wallace County Swimming Pool.

On Saturday, a parade will start at 10:30 a.m. on Main Street. The Lil' Wrangler Rodeo will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the roping arena. At 2:30 p.m., a horseshoe pitching contest will take place east of the quonset. Registration for the turtle races will be at 3 p.m., with the races to start at 4 p.m. Then the Wallace County Free Barbecue will begin at 6 p.m.

The locally owned carnival which is put on by the Wallace County Amusement Association will start at 7 p.m. each evening.

Because he is open-minded and a fights hard for the 121st District. good communicator, Morrison said, he

Though he's not physically the

strongest man, Rep. Morrison said he

"I make sure we get our fair shake," is able to help opposing sides reach he said, "and I do it with a vengeance."



CITY OF GOODLAND has exceeded the state and federal maximum contaminant (MCL) allowed for nitrate (as N) in drinking water. An average concentration of 12.03 milligrams per liter (mg/l) was found in samples collected on May 22, 2000 and July 7, 2000. Nitrate above 10 mg/l is considered to be an acute MCL violation.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set drinking water standards and have determined that nitrate poses an acute health concern at certain levels of exposure. Nitrate is used in fertilizer and is found in sewage and wastes from human and/or farm animals and generally gets into drinking water from those activities. Excessive levels of nitrate in drinking water have caused serious illness and sometimes death in infants under six months of age. The serious illness in infants is caused because nitrate is converted into nitrite in the body. Nitrite interferes with the oxygen carrying capacity of the child's blood. This is an acute disease in that symptoms can develop rapidly in infants. In most cases, health deteriorates over a period of days. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of skin. Clearly, expert medical advice should be sought immediately if these symptoms occur. The purpose of this notice is to encourage parents and other responsible parties to provide infants with an alternate source of drinking water. Local and State health authorities are the best source of information concerning alternate sources of drinking water for infants. Kansas and EPA have set the drinking water standard at 10 parts per million (ppm) for nitrate to protect against the risk of these adverse effects. EPA has also set a drinking water standard for nitrite at 1 ppm. To allow for the fact that the toxicity of nitrate and nitrite are additive, EPA has also established a standard for the sum of nitrate and nitrite at 10 ppm. Drinking water that meets the standard is associated with little to none of this risk and is considered safe with respect to nitrate.

CITY OF GOODLAND is continuing to test the water and is working to correct the problem and return the system to compliance. For additional information, interested persons may contact Lyle Helzer at 899-4540.

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